

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

FOR DAVID AARON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, IS (AARON, DAVID)
SUBJECT: DAVID AARON'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

1. I THINK WE CAN MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE IF YOU CAN SPEND A FEW DAYS HERE AFTER THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. GIVEN THE VICE PRESIDENT'S DESIRE NOT SPECIFICALLY TO ADDRESS SECURITY ISSUES DURING HIS MEETINGS HERE, WE CAN DEVELOP A PROGRAM FOR YOU WHICH WOULD NOT DUPLICATE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE JUNE 30-JULY 3 DISCUSSIONS. I SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IN YOUR TALKS MATMON C IS, OT PUT IT MILDLY, LIKELY TO COME UP.

2. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, YOU SHOULD MEET SEPARATELY FOR BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE WEIZMAN, MAJOR GENERAL GAZIT (DIRECTOR OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE), MAJOR GENERAL TAMIR (DIRECTOR OF PLANS) AND LT. GENERAL EITAN (CHIEF OF IDF STAFF). THAT WOULD TAKE ABOUT HALF A DAY.

3. I ALSO THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF YOU TALKED OVER
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SECURITY ISSUES WITH LABOR PARTY POLITICIANS SUCH AS RABIN, ALLON AND BAR-LEV, ALL OF WHOM AS YOU KNOW ARE FORMER GENERALS. (YOU WILL PROBABLY BE SEEING PERES WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT.)

4. AS FOR TRAVEL, WE HAVE TWO SUGGESTIONS:
A) ETZION AIRBASE IN THE OCCUPIED SINAI. I VISITED THERE LAST MONTH AND CAN COMMEND IT TO YOU. A TRIP TO AND FROM

ETZION BY FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT WOULD TAKE AT A MINIMUM ONE HALF DAY. YOU COULD SPEND THE WHOLE DAY IN THE SOUTH BY GOING ON TO SHARM EL SHEIKH (PICTURESQUE, HISTORIC BUT UNLIKELY TO BE A STICKING POINT IN NEGOTIATIONS) OR TO EITAM AFB WHICH WOULD PROVE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE ISRAELIS TO LEAVE BEHIND.

B) HELICOPTER TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. YOU COULD BE BRIEFED AT HAR AVITAL, WHICH IS AN OBSERVATION POINT OVERLOOKING KUNEITRA. YOU COULD THEN FLY BY CHOPPER ALONG THE HEIGHTS AND OVER THE KEY TERRAIN ON THE WEST BANK, LANDING AT AN OBSERVATION POINT ON THE WEST BANK BEFORE RETURNING TO TEL AVIV. THIS WOULD TAKE A MINIMUM OF HALF A DAY.

5. WE WOULD ALSO WANT TO GIVE YOU A DINNER AND COULD EXPOSE YOU TO A CROSS-SECTION OF ISRAELIS, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN, WHO ARE EVEN MORE THAN MOST CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED WITH SECURITY MATTERS.

6. THUS YOUR SCHEDULE MIGHT LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THE FOLLOWING:

JULY 4 (IF YOU CAN'T CELEBRATE THE ENTIRE DAY WITH US)

A.M. BRIEFINGS AT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY WITH WEIZMAN, GAZIT, TAMIR AND EITAN.

P.M. HELICOPTER TO GOLAN HEIGHTS AND WEST BANK.

2000 COULD ATTEND EMBASSY'S JULY 4 RECEPTION FOR

PROMINENT ISRAELIS

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JULY 5 (OR JULY 6)

A.M. FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT TO ETZION. LUNCH AT ETZION.

P.M. FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT TO SHARM EL SHEIKH OR EITAM, PERHAPS RETURNING VIA SINAI SETTLEMENTS, OR BACK TO TEL AVIV AFTER LUNCH FOR MEETINGS WITH RABIN, ALLON AND BAR-LEV.

2000 DINNER FOR YOU

JULY 6 (OR JULY 7)

DEPART ISRAEL

7. WE CAN FIND OTHER INTERESTING THINGS FOR YOU TO DO HERE WHICH STRETCH BEYOND A TWO-DAY SCHEDULE, BUT I ASSUME THAT IS PROBABLY THE MOST YOU CAN SPARE. IF YOU HAVE MORE TIME, LET ME KNOW.

8. IF YOU CAN STAY THESE EXTRA DAYS, I HAVE ASKED MY POLITICAL COUNSELOR, ROBERT BLACKWILL, TO BE YOUR CONTROL OFFICER.
LEWIS

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